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Application No. : 10/763,216
Filing Date : January 28, 2004
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A method for automatically generating current distribution order data with the inclusion of central address directories, which are stored in databases and are transmitted by electronic data transfer, as distribution order data, comprising the steps of:

- [[I]] locally copying a current central address directory or parts relating to a relevant area,
- [[I]] locally storing change instructions regarding a relative positional change for delivery points in the distribution order for a previous version of the central address directory or of the parts,
- [[I]] transferring the change instructions to the local copy of the current central address directory or parts,
- [[I]] performing a check so as to determine whether the change instructions have already been implemented in the current address directory or whether the instructions are yet to be executed,
- [[I]] storing valid change instructions yet to be executed in an audit file, and
- [[I]] executing the change instructions.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The method according to claim [[1]] Z, wherein the identification data additionally and locally incorporates house number extensions.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The method according to claim [[1]] Z, wherein the identification data additionally and locally incorporates distinguishing remarks.

Application No. : 10/763,216
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Office Action Date : June 30, 2006

Claim 4 (currently amended) The method according to claim 3, further comprising the steps of incorporating forwarding and/or distribution advice into the copied address directory by performing the following steps:

- [[I]]** performing a check so as to determine whether the delivery point for the respective forwarding and/or distribution advice exists in the copied current address directory for the distribution order data, and if so,
- [[I]]** adding new forwarding and/or distribution advice to the copied address directory, with the new forwarding and/or distribution advice having priority over the old forwarding and/or distribution advice of a same type, and
- [[I]]** incorporating a complete change data for the forwarding and/or distribution advice into the audit file.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The method according to claim **[[1]] 7**, further comprising the steps of:

- [[I]]** updating the central address directory or address directory parts by transmitting only incremental changes by data transfer, the changes being merged with the previously current and copied address directory or address directory part by using the identification data for each delivery point to check in the previously current address directory or address directory part whether the respective delivery point in the incremental change is already present, and if not, incorporating into the copied address directory or address directory part at the concomitantly transmitted position of the distribution order, and if so, moving the respective delivery point to the changed position in the address directory.

Claim 6 (previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the move of a delivery point is implemented by deleting said delivery point at the previous position of the address directory and re-entering it at the changed position.

Application No. : 10/763,216
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Claim 7 (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of identifying delivery points according to identification data, the identification data comprising at least ~~[[the]]~~ a sorting code.